

# ASTON LE WALLS PARISH COUNCIL

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## MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2026 AT 7.30 PM

PRESENT: Councillors: Tom Boston (TB), John Funnell (JF), Lee Lewis (LL), Graham Barnes-Moss (GB-M) and Matt Hawkins (MH) - Chair

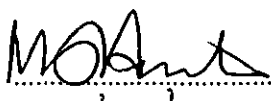
Others: WNC Cllr Alison Eastwood (AE), Charles Lees and Clerk

		Action
1.	<b>Declarations of interest in items on the agenda:</b> There were no declarations of interest.	
2.	<b>Apologies:</b> Rhiannon Harris provided apologies. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to accept the apologies.	
3.	<b>To approve the minutes of the meeting on 19<sup>th</sup> February 2025:</b> The minutes were <b>RESOLVED</b> as accepted.	
4.	<b>Matters Arising from the last meeting, not covered elsewhere on agenda:</b> <b>Tree Work around the Parish:</b> The tree with ash dieback on the school grounds is due to be cut back during the next school holiday. MW will liaise with the contractor on dates for the work to be done.  <b>Speeding Complaint:</b> MW has spoken with the Headteacher at St Mary's Primary School to ask them to include an article about speeding and parking in the school newsletter.	MW
5.	<b>Chairman's Announcements:</b> <b>AGAR Internal Audit:</b> The Chair raised the recommendation of the Clerk to use Angela Weller, former Clerk to Byfield Parish Council, as Internal Auditor for the Annual AGAR. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> to use Angela Weller as Internal Auditor for 2025/26.	Clerk
6.	<b>To receive report from the WNC Ward Councillor(s):</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parish Council gave their sympathy to AE on the recent loss of her husband.</li> <li>• AE thanked the Parish Council and provided a report to the Councillors on recent WNC activity.</li> </ul>	

*Matt Hawkins*  
23/5/26

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The budget for 2026/27 has been agreed, with a council tax increase of 4.95%.</li> <li>• Green bin collection costs have risen to £69 a year.</li> <li>• The suggested parking charges in Daventry, Brackley and Towcester have been removed from the budget, with free parking remaining.</li> <li>• WNC's draft Local Plan has been published, with WNC requesting feedback from residents. Aston le Walls has no allocated housing in the Local Plan.</li> <li>• Northamptonshire's devolution plan to create a mayoral authority with Luton, Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire has not gone ahead. A purpose of intention has been sent to the government to ensure that Northamptonshire can attempt to create a mayoral authority with surrounding counties in the future.</li> <li>• The Ability bus service has ceased due to lack of funding. WNC is looking into alternatives and welcomes buy-in from Parish Councils.</li> </ul>	
7.	<p><b>Public Participation:</b></p> <p><b>Dog waste disposal in public bins:</b></p> <p>It was raised that dog owners were disposing of dog waste in public bins, which they should not do. It was <b>RESOLVED</b> for the Parish Council to include something about this in the newsletter.</p>	MW
8.	<p><b>Finance:</b></p> <p><b>Income received from 13 February to 14 March 2026:</b></p> <p>Bank Interest: £6.51</p> <p><b>Fund balances 14 March 2026:</b></p> <p>Current Account: £111.61</p> <p>Deposit Account: £16,663.81</p> <p>Total: £16,775.42</p> <p>Total funds available: £16,775.42</p> <p>Memorial Fund: £473.81</p> <p>Payment Schedule was <b>RESOLVED</b> and approved for payment.</p>	
9.	<p><b>Village Maintenance:</b></p> <p><b>Pocket Park:</b></p> <p>Fencing has been installed and it was <b>RESOLVED</b> to provide £85 to purchase wildflower seeds and flowers to plant in the Pocket Park. The Clerk will purchase the seeds and flowers.</p>	Clerk

	<p>The Clerk will also provide a report to WNC on the progress of the diversity grant of £1,335 provided to the Parish Council in November 2025.</p> <p><b>Millennium Garden:</b> Ongoing maintenance continues.</p> <p><b>Streetlights:</b> Awaiting repair of streetlight between Main Street and Butler's Close.</p> <p><b>Defibrillator:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Public Footpaths &amp; Rights of Way:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Trees and General Parish Environment:</b> Trees along Welsh Road at risk of ash die back and overhanging private property have been cut back.</p> <p><b>Winter Maintenance:</b> N/A</p>	<b>Clerk</b>
10.	<p><b>General Update:</b> <b>Welsh Road:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>HS2 Liaison, Highways and Road Safety update:</b> N/A</p> <p><b>Neighbourhood Watch:</b> N/A</p>	
11.	<p><b>Dates of next meeting(s):</b> Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> April – Annual Parish Open Meeting Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May</p>	
12.	<b>Meeting closed at 8:40pm.</b>	

Signed:  .....

Date: 28/5/26 .....

